

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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P 251405Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5697

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5828

PASS TREASURY FOR OSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USSAEC

SUBJ: ECONOMISTS FOR FINECON

REF: (A) STATE 210473, (B) STATE 204512

1. EMBASSY/USREP APPRECIATE INTEREST OF DEPARTMENT IN RAISING
PSSSIBILITY JOINT TOGETHER FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE REQUESTS,
BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS APPROPRIATE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. RESEARCH ECONOMISTS AT MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONO-
MY WILL BE ENGAGED IN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SET OF PROBLEMS FROM THOSE
IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MFNE GROUP WILL CONCEN-
TRATE ON QUESTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN SAUDI ARABIA WITH PARTI-
CULAR ATTENTION TO PRACTICAL RESEARCH ASSISTING IN DAY-TO-DAY
IMPLEMENTATION. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUEST WAS BASICALLY
FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMISTS TO VIEW OVERSEAS SCENE.

B. REQUEST FOR ECONOMISTS IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE WAS A DIRECT
PERSONAL REQUEST OF SAUDI/JOINT COMMISSION COORDINATOR, DR
MANSOOR AL-TURKI, AND PRESUMABLY SPEAKING, ALSO ON BEHALF
OF MINISTER WHO IS JOINT COMMISSION COCHAIRMAN. WE BELIEVE QUICK
RESPONSIVENESS WILL PRESNT EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE IM-
PORTANT ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPMENT WORK WITHIN THE KINGDOM AS WELL
AS DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF JECOR.

2. FONMIN REQUEST WAS NOT THROUGH JOINT COMMISSION AS IS PRESENT
REQUEST FROM MINFIN. EMBASSY WOULD WISH TO GO BACK TO DEPUTY
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FOREIGN MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS TO SEE WHE-

THER THERE IS ANY LINGERING INTEREST ON PART OF MINISTER FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE BEFORE RPT BEFORE ANY VISITS BY TREASURY OR OTHER ECONOMISTS.

3. DURING RECENT CALL ON DEPUTY FONMIN, ECON/COUN ASKED ABOUT HIS STAFFING PROBLEM. MINISTER SAID HE HAD MANAGED TO RAID SEVERAL SAUDI MISSIONS ABROAD FOR TRAINED PERSONNEL AND THAT HE NOW HAD "FOUR OR FIVE" TOP FLIGHT ASSISTANTS ON BOARD. SHOULD DEPUTY FONMIN EXPRESS INTEREST ANEW IN RECRUITING ECONOMISTS, EMBASSY/USREP WOULD SUPPORT.

4. TREASURY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER AL-TURKI ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR TDY ASSISTANCE FOR TWO WEEKS IN RESPECT TO HIS REQUEST. USREP/EMBASSY BELIEVE THAT FOUR DAYS TDY TREASURY ECONOMIST WILLIAM H. WITHERELL IS CUTTING IT VERY SHORT AND STRESS THAT HE STAY LONGER. VISIT TO EMBASSY/JIDDA WOULD ALSO BE VERY USEFUL.
PORTER

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